



From the Office of
Andy Eads, Denton County Judge

April 4, 2020

Thank you for the emails, posts, and calls to Denton County regarding the status of Golf Courses. We understand your desire to get out of the house, get fresh air, and some exercise. All of us must find ways to get out, stretch our legs, and have an outlet to relieve stress and connect with nature.

We continue to work with some neighboring counties on a regional decision that will resolve some of the confusion residents have, particularly those that live along the county lines. Effective April 2, Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-14 superseded county and city orders in Texas. In his order, he explicitly points out that the determination of Essential Businesses will be the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, V2.0.

Nowhere in that document are Golf Courses listed as an Essential Business or service. Other services may be added to the list only after the direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Attached is a website with a form to fill out for consideration.

<http://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>

Denton County is not alone in our order closing Golf Courses to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The City of Dallas closed its golf courses on March 17, and they remain closed now. Additionally, I personally had several conversations with Darrell Crall, COO of PGA America. He expressed his support for our decisions made locally in our Executive Order, and Mark Harrison, Executive Director for Northern Texas PGA, sent letters to all PGA member courses in Denton County, asking them to adhere to our order. Mr. Crall told me that golf is a sport built on integrity, and it was vital for them to follow the rules and the local governments' decisions to protect citizens during this time.

Please know that we are working hard for ALL citizens in Denton County to help slow the spread of COVID-19. We ask you to adhere to the current orders the County and State of Texas have in place, be patient, and we will reach out as soon as possible if there are any modifications on this issue as it relates to golf being an Essential Business. The science community agrees, our current efforts to stay at home other than for essential services will provide us with a better outcome for the health of our community and the health of our economy.

#DentonCountyStrong

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